

Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the first paragraph 112 rejections of claims 14-20 given in sections 1 and 3 of the detailed portion of the office action mailed 02 September 2009 are withdrawn in view of applicant's claim amendments filed 21 October 2009. See section 7 of the detailed portion of the office action mailed 02 September 2009 for an explanation of the distinctions over the cited prior art of claims 14-20. All other claims have been cancelled.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. The drawings filed 16 July 2004 are approved by the examiner.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Watkins III whose telephone number is 571-272-1503. The examiner works an increased flex time schedule, but can normally be reached Monday through Friday, 11:30 A.M. through 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time. The examiner returns all calls within one business day unless an extended absence is noted on his voice mail greeting.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on 571-272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WW/ww
November 3, 2009

/William P. Watkins III/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794